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Flour
FAMINE CAMPAIGN ROUND UP

THE CRIMS OF TWO CHILDREN

A healthy, hungry child puckers up his face and voices a hearty, full lunged cry for nourishment. And a harried mother, burdened with household tasks, quiets the cry with its regular feeding. Sometimes she frets a bit because the baby is a half hour or an hour off schedule.

That's America.

An ailing, starving child, too weak to cry, makes just a mewling little noise. His despairing and equally hungry mother can do nothing. There is no regularly scheduled feeding to silence that plaintive sound. There never has been a regular feeding schedule in that child's lifetime.

That's Europe.

Can you hear that cry and fail to answer it?

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WHEAT EXPORTS HIT RECORD -- BIG JOB YET TO BE DONE

U.S. wheat exports for the first 3 months of this year were the largest on record for the January-March period as farmers and the rest of the nation responded to the cries of hungry peoples abroad.

Preliminary estimates indicate that our wheat exports totaled about 100 million bushels for the 3-month period. This amount, added to the 194 million bushels sent abroad in the July-December period, makes a total close to 300 million bushels for the first 9 months of the current marketing year.

While shipments are setting new records, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics warns that "a very substantial voluntary reduction in food consumption of wheat" will be needed during April, May, and June if we are to meet our January-June export goal of 225 million bushels.

Here are the statistics of the current wheat situation as supplied by BAE:

January 1, 1946, stocks	686 million bushels
Estimated (very tentative) January- June use for feed	70 million bushels
Estimated January-June use for seed	23 million bushels
Estimated July 1, 1946, carryover	150 million bushels
Left for U.S. food use and for exports, about	450 million bushels.

Assuming that the use of the 80 percent extraction rate from wheat milled into flour will reduce U. S. food use from 270 to 250 million bushels, the amount left for export would be about 200 million bushels. But our export goal is 225 million bushels.

So it is this extra 25 million bushels of wheat -- saved by people in their eating and by farmers in their livestock feeding -- that is the goal of the Famine Emergency Committee.

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FARMERS OFFER WHEAT AS GIFT

The desire of wheat growers to go all-out in the battle against famine prompted the Commodity Credit Corporation to agree to accept gift offers of wheat for emergency foreign food use.

Farm groups in Oklahoma, Minnesota, and in certain other sections of the wheat producing area have asked to be allowed to present gifts of wheat for shipment abroad.

In answer to these requests, CCC will use its facilities to accept wheat without payment in not less than carload lots. UNRRA will bear the expense of transporting and loading the wheat for shipment to hunger-ridden countries.

(Source: Office of Famine Emergency Program.)

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WHAT TWO SLICES CAN DO

If the average American would save two slices of bread each day, the total saving would provide a day's bread ration for 20 million hungry people abroad.

Here are the calculations behind that statement:

A one-pound loaf cuts into 20 slices, including the end crusts. Two slices weigh 1.6 ounces. Since our population is estimated around 140,000,000,

... saving per person would total 224,000,000 ounces of bread annually. Last year the average American, excluding those in military service, ate about 6 slices of bread daily.

Bread is a much more important part of diet in Europe than here. In many countries it forms up to two-thirds of the diet compared with only one-fourth of the average U. S. diet. Right now Italians are eating as little as 3 ounces of bread daily. For the Greeks, Yugoslavs, and Czechoslovaks, it is 12 ounces.

Using 12 ounces as an average minimum bread ration for many European countries, we find that the saving of 224,000,000 ounces of bread by Americans would feed 20 million people for one day.

Of course, it is not possible for a child in Europe to eat the two slices you don't take from your bread box. So what actually happens?

You and your family eat less bread. So you buy less from your store. The store doesn't have to order so much from the baker. The baker cuts down his flour order to the miller. And the miller uses less wheat. The wheat saved by the mills is thus available to be shipped abroad.

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THEY'RE FINISHING THE JOB

"More food in the stomach and less in the garbage can" is the slogan of the U. S. Army.

The quartermaster general's office, the world's largest wholesale grocer, has announced several steps designed to save food for shipment to starving peoples overseas:

- * Issues of bread have been cut from 15 to 12 pounds for 100 men at each meal.
- * Issues of many other foods including asparagus, beets, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, rolled oats and wheat cereals also have been reduced.
- * Instructions have been given mess sergeants for more economical handling of bread, such as storage on screen shelves, one-half inch thick slices.
- * Food preferences of soldiers have been studied. For example, it has been found advisable to cook less rice with goulash.
- * "Tighten the belt" gardens are being planted at Army bases all over the world.

As one example of how these measures help, the Army estimates that 450,000 pounds of bread are being saved each week simply by allowing the allowance of 5 pounds of bread for toast at breakfast when hot cakes, French toasts, bran muffins, or coffee cake are served.

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FARMERS CAN DELIVER WHEAT NOW -- "CHOOSE" PRICE LATER

Here's the "how" on the recently-announced wheat purchase plan.

CCC will buy wheat from farmers for immediate delivery to Commodity Credit Corporation.

Wheat eligible for purchase is wheat which would have been eligible for CCC loans under the 1945 loan program.

In or after the date of delivery, the seller may name the date on which he wishes purchase price to be determined. Example: John Smith sells his wheat April 15, 1946. He can (1) Request in writing that he be paid the purchase price determined for April 15, 1946. (2) Or he can wait, and make his request at a later date -- anytime up to March 31, 1947.

If he makes no request in writing, the seller will get the purchase price as of March 31, 1947. If he delivers the wheat but chooses a purchase date later than January 1, 1947, the farmer can report his payment as income for Federal tax purposes received in 1947.

The offer to purchase is open to farmers until July 1, 1946.

The program is administered at the farm level by State and County AAA offices.

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CONSIGNMENT SELLING OF BAKERY GOODS

The ban on consignment selling of bakery products has been tightened during the present food crisis.

War Food Order Number 1, which went into effect January 18, 1945, requires grocers, hotels, restaurants, and other commercial buyers to accept delivery of bakery products only for the sale of such products. No buyer can return bakery products to the seller. The Department of Agriculture has announced a drive to enforce this order on all counts.

In 1942, grocery stores returned more than 500 million pounds of bread to bakers the day following delivery. This represents about 5 percent of all bread that bakers deliver to grocery stores. About half of the returned bread was used as animal feed, burned, or thrown away as garbage.

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...the present situation is in complete chaos.

Ministers of European countries, meeting in London, have decided that the extraction rate of flour milling in Europe be raised from 75 to 90 percent -- as against present rates of 70 to 80 percent. The U. S. rate is now 80 percent, having been increased from 70 percent.

As a brief illustration of the situation in the food situation in their countries as reported by the Associated Press:

Italy -- Wheat supply exhausted. Average daily ration 1000 calories. "We have starvation today in Italy."

Belgium -- Wheat supplies until mid-May. "So grave...our whole recovery may be jeopardized."

Greece -- Only European country able to send meat to neighbors, but needs 30,000 tons of wheat until harvest.

Greece -- Daily ration reduced to 950 calories in March and further cuts feared in May. Livestock and seed supplies wiped out by Nazis.

Austria -- Average daily ration is 1200 calories, but it is only 900 in some districts because of lack of transportation.

France -- "Grave situation." Germans killed livestock and damaged farms.

Portugal -- "Serious food situation." Extraction rate 90 to 95 percent.

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Robert Hoover, completing a personal survey of European food needs, reported that the FOOD SITUATION IN POLAND was the worst he had seen anywhere -- "far worse" than that of Italy.

"Infant mortality is 30 percent," Mr. Hoover said, "...and over 1 million children are terribly subnormal from undernourishment...."

Families have four times swept over Poland, living on the country and now have had 5 years of German occupation. The population of the new Poland, about 24 million, will be about 11 million less than old Poland -- "probably five million were killed."

He said the Polish situation was "heartbreakingly" bad, partly due to requisitions. Breadstuffs and potatoes in stock and en route from overseas will last until May 7 under the existing skinty ration.

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Food Minister Henri Longchambon of France submitted figures showing a
WHEAT DEFICIT of 1,462,000 tons to the London food conference. France
harvested only 11,315,000 tons of wheat this year, as compared with a
normal crop of 13 million tons.

Mr. Longchambon's report shows stocks are depleted at the rate of 350,000
tons monthly, and that France would need to import 320,000 tons of wheat
for April, May and June, to keep up present rationing.

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ARMY WILL KILL FOR FOOD. About 1,000 unemployed, many of them former
soldiers, looted warehouses of cheese, sausages, and other foodstuffs
at Foggia, Italy.

Then they marched to a railroad station and stormed a train loaded
with wares, killed and wounded several travelers.

Black marketeers took command of the train, and with sub-machine guns,
forced the crew to proceed to Bari. Stopping three times on the way,
they looted pillages of foodstuffs and clothing to make up for what
they had lost on board.

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has called
a meeting on URGENT FOOD PROBLEMS for May 20 in Washington. Invited
to the meeting are representatives of UNRRA, the Combined Food Board,
and other international organizations concerned with food.

President Truman has set up an inter-agency food committee to work
closely with FAO. Secretary Anderson or his nominee is to head the
committee.

Other members include representatives from: State, Commerce, Treasury,
Interior, Labor, Federal Security Agency, and Budget Bureau.

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Walter H. La Guardia, Director General of NARR, appealed to American farmers to "SOW THEIR SEEDS IN THE GOVERNMENT" for instant relief at a meeting of the Vermont Emergency Food Program for famine relief.

"We have 500 million people in need of food today. We can plant wheat every year but people who are starving die only once." he said.

"Under the new plan the American farmer is asked to deliver his wheat to the Government at once. It isn't necessary for the farmer to sell his wheat at today's price. He may deliver his wheat and choose the date as he desires payment, and on presentation of the certificate at that date, receive the market price of the wheat."

He asserted that if a farmer keeps his wheat, he runs the danger of deterioration, destruction by fire, rodents, and other dangers that threaten wheat stocks.

"Therefore, he is in a position of keeping his wheat and selling it at the same time, and that's pretty good magic," La Guardia added.

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In a talk April 4 from Vatican City, Pope Pius XII said:

"The human race is threatened by famine. And famine, of itself, is the cause of... contrast in the midst of which the FUTURE PEACE, as yet only a germ, would run the risk of being suffocated before being born." He said that reprisal, lust of power or domination, desire of isolation or victor's privileges has no room in today's work.

He paid tribute to the United States: "In this great world offensive against famine, the U. S. has generously taken the lead. It has placed at the service of this cause its gigantic power of production... devoted efforts to increase the surplus of foodstuffs."

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Gen. General Lucius D. Clay, Deputy Military Governor of Germany, is seeking Herbert Hoover's cooperation in a plea to the Combined Food Board in Washington for ALLOCATION OF THE MEAT QUANTITIES LISTED IN ADVANCE of the scheduled session in June.

A collapse is inevitable for the German food ration, according to experts in Berlin. The ration was cut a few days ago from 1,650 calories to 1,275. Death rates, especially among babies and old people, have increased and are expected to go up still further because of the new lower ration.

Approximately 15,000 additional tons of grain will be needed after June 1 to insure the continuation of the 1,275-calorie level until autumn.

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RETAIL PRICES WILL BE CHANGED in certain cases on bakery products at certain doughnuts, pastries and cinnamon buns that have been reduced in weight in conformity with the Famine Emergency Committee's recommendations, the Office of Price Administration has announced.

For each full cent saved in material cost for a sales unit of product, baker will be required to make a corresponding reduction in consumer price. Price reductions for fractions of a cent saved in materials will not be required.

This is the third emergency measure taken by OPA in line with the recommendation of the Famine Emergency Committee for a 10 percent weight reduction in bread and bakery products. Price reductions for bread and bread-type rolls were not practical mainly because the percentage of the materials cost of a loaf of bread is too small to be reflected uniformly in retail prices.

OPA explained that the higher material cost of baked sweet goods makes it feasible to figure materials cost savings per sales unit in round cents and to reduce retail prices.

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A United Nations White Paper report on the world food situation warns that the "present difficulties are not likely to disappear with the next harvest."

Reasons for the world shortage are set forth with the hope that disastrous droughts will not be repeated and that production will be increased.

"The new factor which might afford considerable relief," says the White Paper, "would be good crops and a large exportable surplus in the U.S.S.R." But, warns the paper, "only a combination of favorable circumstances can bring about any material improvement, while unfavorable crops would spell disaster."

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ACTIONS

Worcester formed a famine committee composed of a bakery operator, a chain grocery store manager, a restaurant man, a radio announcer, a newspaper reporter, and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Parent-Teacher Association.

The state superintendent of schools sent letters to 350 county, district, and city school superintendents, enclosing background material for classroom discussion of food conservation.

